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VOL. II

STRATHCONA, ALBERTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1908

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No. 129

The Strathcona Mystery

Inquest on the Body of Thomas Burns Sits and Adjourns Till After Post Mortem

The first investigation proceeds, the more mysterious does the death of Thomas Burns appear and the probability is that it will remain a mystery for all time. One thing is absolutely certain, and that is that the autopsy theory advanced by a contemporary is absolutely ridiculous, and is making the poorer the laughing stock of the community. Anyone who viewed the body could have come to no other conclusion than that the theory that the woman was self-inflicted was preposterous. There were two wounds on the top of the cranium, one wound over the right eye, one under the right eye, one on the forehead, one behind the head at the back of the head, two on the left hand, one on the right leg, the latter seeming like a knife wound.

The jury met last night yesterday in the police station under the direction of Dr. Craig, the coroner. The jury consisted of Messrs. Arthur Davies, Thomas Allen, Wm. Woods, John Forsythe, Arthur Richards and J. H. Dutton. Immediately after assembling the coroner and jury visited Waverleigh's undertaking establishment and there viewed the body. After a lengthy examination the coroner and jury proceeded to the scene of the tragedy, a street on First avenue south between First St. and Second St. west, situated between Mr. Campbell's house and Mr. Burns' house. The street consists of three rooms, the room on entry being used by Mr. Burns for storing grain. The next room is empty, and the third had been occupied by the old man as a bedroom. It is a small room, about ten feet by six, and yesterday the signs of the tragedy were still apparent in the large blood marks on the floor.

Having seen over the shack the coroner's jury returned to the police station, where the evidence was presented with the first witness called was Miss Dixon, matron at the public hospital, who deposed that she was in bed on the morning of October 6th, when Burns was brought to the hospital. She got up and saw him while Dr. May and Dr. Green were attending to his injuries on the operating table. She was in charge under the direction of Dr. May, and everything was done that was possible, but in spite of all their efforts the old man died at 4:30 p. m. on Thursday. He had no statement. He was sometimes alone brought in.

Miss Corn MacWhirter was in attendance on Burns after his admission to the hospital. He mentioned nothing to her as to how he had received his injuries. All he said was to complain of his back. Witness corroborated Miss Dixon.

In his possession. The only visitors that she knew he had were a man named Mr. Young—she did not know his name—and Thomas Oliver. Both visited him the week before his death. Oliver lived with Burns for a short time in the summer. Burns was expecting a letter. Mr. D. Bard was the next witness. He was on his way home about midnight and was passing by Burns' shack when he heard groans. He knew Burns and went in, thinking probably he was sick. The shack was dark. He lit a match and found Burns lying on the floor of his bedroom with his back towards the door. He asked him what was the matter, and Burns replied "My heart's bothering me." His head was covered with blood. He asked Burns to a sitting position and called Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell remained with the injured man while witnesses went to the hospital and telephoned to the police. Burns had kept asking for the priest, and Mr. Bard called in Father McQuaid, who came. The door of Burns' bedroom was only partly open and was lying against it, so that he had no push to get in. When witness had come with Mr. Campbell they asked anyone had struck him. He said, "I don't know," and on being asked again he replied in a similar manner. He said "I'm going to die. The Lord has called for me." With the priest was here. "I was dressed in his shirt, drawers and socks. Before going to telephone for the police witness asked him if anyone had taken his money. He said he had no money. He kept calling in a loud voice for the Lord to have mercy on him for his sins. He had a very strong voice. He complained of being cold. He never told witness about his troubles, but he could not take his money. He had a lot of family troubles. Witness remembered Thomas Oliver coming to talk with Burns. He told witness that he would be found dead some morning. As he complained of his heart, when witness first found him he told her his wife that he had killed her with the top of his head. The outside door was closed when witness arrived first, and he had to shove it. Burns was in the habit of putting a stick to the back of the door to keep it closed, but of the night in question the stick which had been placed there was not the regular stick. Except Oliver, the only person who witness knew had visited Burns was a man named Vance, who visited him during the first fortnight he was there in May, but he did not know him since. Andrew M. Campbell, husband of a previous witness, was then called, and gave evidence as to being fetched by Mr. Bard, whose evidence he corroborated. Witness stated that he had placed the lamp close to the injured man's head. He saw no cuts. Burns's eyes looked to witness, through the blood, to be black. He complained of his body being sore when witness tried to move him. During the time that Burns was away witness asked him several times who struck him. He would only say he didn't know, and call on the Lord to forgive him for his sins. He also said he didn't know what he had done that the Lord should bring this thing on him.

Alfred Hissel deposed as to having deceased had some garden stuff heard through Mr. Skelton that the man. He went down to Burns' shack twenty minutes past eight on the even

ing of the 10th October. Constable Patrick Meagher, called, deposed as to receiving a telephone message about midnight as to a man having been severely assaulted. He met Constable Sharkey on the way and Mr. Bard at the hospital, and all three went to the shack. Witness corroborated the evidence of Mr. Campbell and said Mr. Bard as to what had transpired during the removal of Burns to the hospital. He further deposed as to searching the shack. There was no weapon in the room in which Burns was lying, but in the other room they found an axe. He stated that in answer to all questions as to who had assaulted him Burns said he didn't know. He told witness that he had been shot shortly after dark and that he didn't know whether anyone had visited the shack or how he came by his injuries. At the hospital he was asked if he had any relatives, and he stated that he had a married daughter in North Dakota. Witness described the contents of the injured man's pockets. He found \$10.35 in his trouser's pocket. There was \$3 in single bills in a black purse some silver in a tobacco pouch and some silver in a matchbox. Witness picked up a broken piece of wood which might have been used to fasten the bed room. There was no sign of any scuffle having taken place except that his two boots were found in different parts of the room.

The expert was summoned until half past eight in the evening, when the evidence of Constable Sharkey and the two doctors, May and Green, was taken.

Constable Sharkey corroborated the evidence of Constable Meagher and Messrs. Campbell and Bard. Dr. May, who had been in attendance on Burns while in the hospital and who had made an examination of the body after death, described the injuries to the jury. The cuts on the head were all gaping scalp wounds. The wound on the back of the head was a clean cut with no sign of any bruise. The wound on the leg was like a stab, possibly with an inch long and an inch and a half deep. The other wounds, however, showed more or less bruising, and the doctor said he was not prepared to make a declaration as to the cause of death without a postmortem. He did not think that the wounds had been made with a knife, and yet could not say positively that they had been done with an axe. After hearing all the evidence the jury decided to adjourn until Wednesday next, October 13th, at nine a. m., in order to permit of a postmortem examination being made.

FISHERMEN FIGHT. Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Oct. 9.—A battle with rifles between American fishermen and Canadian officials in said to have been fought on Lake Superior opposite Whitefish point yesterday. The boats arriving at the Canadian Soo tell of seeing trouble at a distance, and local Canadian officials admit hearing of the affair, but decline to discuss it. Americans are said to have been fishing in Canadian waters at this end of the lake for some time, and several days ago officials went to the scene to make a seizure. It is reported here that the fishermen have escaped.

Belgrade, Oct. 9.—War talk is universal at King Peter's capital and the residents are clamoring for an opportunity to take up war against Emperor Francis Joseph's domain. A heavy guard has been placed in the streets leading to the Austrian legation, the government taking this precaution for the protection of the life of the minister and other legation attaches. The Serbians are loud in their condemnation of their own government for its mild protest against the Austrians' policy of aggression. An angry crowd this afternoon gathered in front of the office of the minister of foreign affairs, hooting the official and demanding that war be declared against Austria at once. There is no lack of volunteers for army service, for the spirit of patriotism seems to have taken hold of the entire populace.

Belgrade, Oct. 8.—Great crowds again surrounded the palace tonight for shouting for war and calling for the King's resignation. King Peter, accompanied by the Crown Prince, came to the balcony and implored the people not to cause disturbance. He said: "Trust me and my government; both will do their duty."

SERBIA STILL SHOUTING FOR WAR

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The crowd cheered the King, but continued to shout "War with Austria."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

Peterboro, Oct. 9.—The funeral of the late Elizabeth Borland, which was to have been held yesterday afternoon, has been postponed because of the fact that no doctor here will sign a burial certificate. Rev. J. Todd, a Christian Scientist minister attended for her before her death and therefore none of the doctors will issue a permit. Until a month ago the deceased lived in Toronto and was attended by a regular physician. On coming to Peterboro, however, Mr. Todd was called in. An inquest may be held.

FIRST LOCAL OPTION VOTE IN ALBERTA.

Calgary, Oct. 9.—The first local option battle in the history of the province of Alberta is now in progress in the town of Claresholm, and the vote will be taken shortly after the Dominion elections are held.

The vote will be taken in the town of Claresholm, and will not include any of the surrounding country. The vote will be upon the Dominion election lists.

The act is the old North West Territories act, and is an exact copy of the act to carry. The Ontario act requiring a 60 per cent. vote has been done and yet it is expected that the result will be a narrow one as soon as the Dominion election battle is over.

War Rumors Prevalent

Significant Movement of British Fleet

Xaletta Island of Malta, Oct. 9.—The British fleet will leave here this evening for the Aegean sea; its actual destination is believed to be the Turkish Island of Lemnos. The sailing orders are sealed. The fleet will consist of four battleships, four cruisers and four torpedo boat destroyers and will be under command of Prince Louis of Battenberg.

London, Oct. 9.—The foreign office and admiralty have confirmed the press cablegram from Malta saying that the British warships have been ordered to the Aegean sea. It is explained that these vessels are sent out simply to watch events, but it is understood from other sources that the fleet has intended that it should welcome the appearance of a British fleet as likely to calm the population. No evidence whatever is given to the rumor or that the fleet at Constantinople had fired on a Bulgarian vessel. The report originated with the Berlin Anzeiger, and is without confirmation from any source.

London, Oct. 8.—The Central News Vienna correspondent says the Austrian troops seized and occupied the Beska tunnel on the Serbian frontier near the fortress of Belovodina, a Hungarian town and fortress in Croatia, Serbia, on the right bank of the Danube, opposite Neusatz.

Vienna, Oct. 8.—Serbian restlessness is increasing the public here. The news papers print several reports of the war being begun by the Serbians, which, it is feared, will force King Peter's government into the invasion of the Bosna.

Belgrade, Oct. 8.—In the forenoon, frantic people forced their way inside the palace, determined to see King Peter. They were so threatening that the king's guards and troops were called out, but not until the troops had charged several times were the frantic demonstrators driven away.

Thousands of people went into the country to meet the troops returning from everywhere, and escorted them into the town this evening, singing war songs. The government has stopped issuing passports for foreign travel to the eligible for military service.

Wealthy merchants are offering the king money for war, the women contributing their jewels. The president of the national assembly made a speech to the crowds today, saying: "If we cannot conquer by arms we will resort to bombs."

The newspaper threaten King Peter with the loss of his throne unless he takes up the sword. The Payday says: "Oh, king, rescue Bosnia; we to you and yours if Bosnia is not rescued!"

LABOR QUESTIONS IN ENGLAND

London, Oct. 9.—The general federation of trade unions has issued a manifesto declaring that there are 1,500,000 unemployed in the United Kingdom, with dependants numbering 7,500,000, suffering thereby. The federation recommends that a ministry of labor be added to the cabinet, that a permanent unemployment board be established and that all members of labor unions refuse to work over time.

C. P. R. LINER MAKER RECORD

Montreal, Oct. 8.—A remarkable performance was brought to an end today, and a trans-Atlantic record established by the arrival in Quebec of the Empress of Ireland of the C. P. R. The liner left Liverpool last Friday night, and reached Quebec at 4 1/2 hours afternoon in time to get her passengers to Montreal in time to catch the regular train for the West. Passengers who left Liverpool last Friday will be in Toronto to arrive morning or if they took the main line of the C. P. R., will reach Winnipeg Saturday evening just eight days from Liverpool. Mails posted in London at noon last Friday were delivered in Montreal to-night. This breaks all Canadian records.

UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Owing to an error in setting up the notice of the University convocation in our issue of yesterday the part which we quote in capitals was omitted. We regret the omission as it changes the whole sense of the article. The convocation will last from 3 p. m. to 4:30 p. m., and at five o'clock the Lieut-Governor and Mrs. Bulyea will hold a reception. FOR THE MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION IN THE TRAINING LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY AT DUGGAN STREET SCHOOL, IN THE EVENING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL HOLD A CIVIC RECEPTION IN THE Odeon's Hall, to which all members of convocation and the public at large are invited.

BIG FIRE IN BUKOTA

Grand Forks, N.D., Oct. 10.—The whole of the business and part of the residence portion of Inkster, a town of 699 inhabitants, located on the branch running north from Larimer, is burning. The fire started at the Minneapolis and Northern elevator, and spread to the other buildings. An appeal was sent to Larimer fire department and the Great Northern rushed an engine to Larimer from Grand Forks to take a special train of firemen. The Great Northern are unable to get any information over the wires.

To Protect Their Interests.

Ottawa, Oct. 9.—Representation of all South African veterans associations throughout Canada from Halifax on the east to Victoria on the west will assemble in Ottawa on Monday next for the purpose of forming a Dominion association and discussing many matters of interest to volunteers who served in the South African war. While the primary object of the gathering is to form a Dominion Association for mutual relief, it is certain the volunteers' body act of 1908 will come in for considerable discussion, particularly in view of the recent ruling of the department of the interior making it obligatory for a volunteer or substitute to enter upon his land within six months after the entry as the land office. Several important amendments to the act are proposed by the different associations which will also come under review.

PUBLIC MEETING

WED'Y, OCT. 14.

At 8 O'clock p. m.

IN OPERA HOUSE, STRATHCONA

To Be Addressed By

HON. R. P. ROBLIN,
Premier of Manitoba, and
MR. E. W. DAY,
Conservative Candidate for
the Strathcona Constituency



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Around the City

A special meeting of the Ladies' Hospital Aid Society will be held Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Crang, at 7:30 o'clock sharp.

We have been requested to announce that no children under sixteen will be admitted to any of the proceedings in connection with the University convocation on Tuesday.

Mr. A. E. Armstrong, of Toronto, secretary of the central council for Canada, will address the mass meeting which is to be held at 7:30 on Sunday evening in Knox Presbyterian Church in the interests of the Daymen's Missionary movement.

Our up-to-date real estate firm, A. M. Fuller & Co., have secured agencies for the townships of Wainwright and Pembina, both on the G. T. P. main line. Wainwright is the first C.T.P. divisional point east of Edmonton and gives promise of being the largest new town on that system in Alberta. The company have a twelve stall residence about completed, are surveying a branch line from there to Calgary and will build a large hotel, tourist shops, etc. as fast as men can put them up. Wainwright is surrounded by one of the best farming districts in Alberta and is only 15 miles from the reservoir buffalo and elk park. Pembina situated on the Pembina river, sixty-five miles west of Edmonton, is surrounded by a good agricultural country has unlimited coal areas (two-sevenths feet thick). Over 500,000,000 feet of timber is tributary to and will be manufactured at this point. Lots in both places are selling rapidly and those wishing a good investment where a small amount of cash will give a quick and large return, should buy now while prices are low.

SIFTON'S EMPTY BOAST.

(Telegrams)

Hon. Clifford Sifton has taken credit for "peopling the West," although all he did was to attach the cat to his own and his family's focusses to the engine of an economic process upon which the Sifton gang have been no longer but as accomplices.

He lured the public to him, and allowed his friends to loot it also. He constructed no great public works or avenues of transportation. He was there with his mask and gun to hold up every man who entered Canada and make him minister to his swollen fortunes.

For houses to shelter him, for fuel to burn, for land to till the bonafide settler has to pay tribute to the gang of like homesteaders, land monopolists, corrupt officials, timber barons and other thieves protected and encouraged by the Sifton administration.

Equally baseless, equally impudent is the contention of the government that its policy has been the cause of the expansion of Canadian trade. Canadian trade received its first great impetus from the discovery of the Yukon and the development of mining in British Columbia. The government made the Yukon a byword for corrupt ambition and all it had to do with Southern British Columbia was to engineer the Crow's nest, Pan steal.

Another country which received great impetus of a similar origin in the decade from 1896 to 1906 Canada's export trade increased 115 per cent; Mexican export trade increased 158 per cent. Canadian import trade increased 170 per cent; Mexican import trade increased 425 per cent.

The ratio of the increase of total trade in both countries was: Canada, 143 per cent; Mexico, 231 per cent. What had the policy of the Canadian government to do with the development of Mexican trade? Did that bright occidental star Clifford Sifton illuminate the resources of Mexico so well as those of Canada? As he has been down there on a visit without suffering from the pestiferous methods of justice there we know not.

The second great stimulus to Canadian trade was the result of the Northwest. The actions of the government in relation to that vast already been dissected. But another country of similar agricultural opportunities is Argentina.

During the decade already mentioned the import trade of Argentina increased 113 per cent, as against Canada's 170 per cent; while its export trade increased 151 per cent, as

against Canada's 116 per cent. Under its government's policy Argentina was vastly more productive than Canada. Its total trade was the same; its export trade was much greater.

Canada combines the advantages of the Argentine and Mexico. It possesses the agricultural resources of the one and the mineral assets of the other. It is a greater country than either, or both combined. Its people are more virile. Its standards of education are higher. And yet both countries in a period of universal expansion lost Canada in the development of their trade.

Canada had the money bags of Great Britain behind her. The Argentine had to live down the memory of the Baring crisis. Mexico had to overcome the uncertainty of a man's life, its only guarantee of stability.

Can the Canadian government take credit for a trade expansion of which Canada obviously did not take the full advantage?

Canada's was a government of small men in the face of great opportunities whose chief conception of these opportunities was the chance they gave of self-enrichment and personal luxury.

GOVERNMENT BLACK-GUARDISM.

Dawson, Oct. 9.—There is general disgust and a serious split in the Liberal ranks caused by the attempt of the party machine to force the nomination of Compton. Commissioner Henderson is unable to handle the situation. After his defeat in the last federal elections one of his principal supporters was compelled by a delegation of indignant citizens in the notorious "Run, baby, Run!" incident to disgorge the voters' lists. They had been agreed to preventing the opposition candidate getting rights, access to Mr. Robt. Love, an excellent servant of Sifton, is also determined, to run. Theoretically of sixties has named Comptroller Lithgow as returning officer. He is one of the two men whom Pringle named for investigation as prominent examples of official Yukon immorality. Laurier acknowledged Lithgow guilty in the house. The Liberal government organ describes Lithgow appointment as Laurier slapping Pringle's face.

Prominent Manager's Telling Testimony

Mr. D. R. Courlay, advertising man and for the well known piano firm of Gourlay, Winter & Leeming, Toronto and Winnipeg, is amongst the prominent men of business who testify to Zam-Buk's great curative power. He writes to the company as follows: "Gentlemen—I have pleasure in stating that upon the recommendation of a relative I purchased a box of your remedy (Zam-Buk), and by a few applications entirely cured a very serious sprain of the back. While not given to discrimination, myself, or believe in patent medicines, I am convinced by recommendation Zam-Buk."

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) D. R. COURLAY.

That is just where Zam-Buk proves its superiority! It is treated by men and women who have tried it as altogether different from ordinary preparations. Doctors, hospital nurses, trainmen, outcasts, of convalescent homes—all give Zam-Buk a good word and better still, they use it. Zam-Buk is as good for muscular stiffness, sprains, rheumatism and sciatica as it is for skin troubles. Hockey players and athletes in general find it invaluable. For eruptions, pustules, scalp sores, itch, eczema, ulcers, boils, abscesses, blood poison, cuts, burns, bruises, and abrasions, it is a speedy cure. Takes the soreness out of wounds almost instantly, and kills all disease germs, thus preventing festering and inflammation. All druggists sell at 50c a box, or post free from the Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, for price 6 boxes for \$2.50. Send to stamp for trial box.

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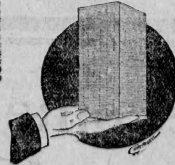
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